

Crab Lines



Dear Friends of the Estuary,

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) and Foundation are gearing up for 10th Annual “*La Fete d’Ecologie: Barataria-Terrebonne*” on Saturday, September 30th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Jean Lafitte National Park in Thibodaux. This one-day educational festival highlights the unique natural, cultural and historical resources of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary with food, music, educational kids activities, a scavenger hunt, cast-net throwing contest and more!

“This is our premier outreach event of the year,” says Joni Blanchard, Public Involvement Coordinator for the BTNEP, “I mean, who doesn’t love a south Louisiana festival? The food, the music, the kids’ activities, people dancing - we love this stuff,” she continued.

The goal of *La Fete d’Ecologie* is to educate people about the amazing environment that they live in, the history of the region, and the unique blend of cultures found in the estuary in a fun, family-friendly way. As one would expect, good music, good food and great fun for all ages are the orders of the day at this festival.

There will be lots of agencies, non-profits, traditional folk crafters, and educational groups who participate each year and teach the kids and adults about the history, culture, and the bounty of our environment. There will also be games, great Cajun and Zydeco music, and festival food favorites like po-boys and seafood. There will be something for everybody!

This year the festival is being moved to the grounds of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve’s Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center. This National Park, located at 314 St. Mary Street (LA Highway 1) in Thibodaux, because it offers an opportunity to host this environmentally themed festival on the banks of historic Bayou Lafourche, as well as offer visitors the opportunity to learn more about this historic resource and the cultures that sprang up along its banks.

The new venue opens up new possibilities like history-themed boat tours of Bayou Lafourche, pirogue races, and other water activities.

La Fete d’Ecologie is free and open to the public, so get out your dancing shoes and bring the kids and grandkids to this year’s festival on Saturday, September 30th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Jean Lafitte National Park in Thibodaux. The Park is located at 314 St. Mary Street in Thibodaux, along the bank of Bayou Lafourche. For directions to the Park, call (985) 448-1375. If you would like to learn more about the festival, or the mission of the BTNEP, contact Joni Blanchard at (985) 447-0838 or email joni@btnep.org

Hope to see you all there,

Kerry St. Pe’
Program Director